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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 24 March 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the aide-mémoire of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the recognition of the so-called Republic of Kosovo by Albania, dated 14 March 1995.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 81 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/50/50.

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Annex

The Republic of Albania is the only country in the world which, in violation of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe recognized the non-existent "Republic of Kosovo". It did so by a separate decision of the People's Assembly of Albania in October 1991. Kosovo and Metohija is an integral part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, i.e. the Republic of Serbia. The present Albanian Government endorsed the recognition of the "Republic of Kosovo" in April 1992.

Contrary to the international norms in force, "the representative office of the Republic of Kosovo" has been opened and is active in Tirana. Albania accords the separatist leaders of Kosovo and Metohija the treatment of legitimate representatives of the foreign State of the "Republic of Kosovo" and presents them as such before the domestic and international public.

Albania's diplomatic missions in international organizations and forums (United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), European Union (EU), European Parliament, Council of Europe, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)) represent the so-called "Republic of Kosovo", organize visits and meetings of the separatist leaders of Kosovo and Metohija, distribute their propaganda material (the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations organized a press conference for Ibrahim Rugova on 8 December 1994 presenting him as "the President of the Republic of Kosovo").

Albania continues to encourage the members of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija not to be loyal to the State in which they live - Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; it encouraged them not to participate in the legal general elections, to boycott the educational system, etc. This constitutes an overt violation of the OSCE principles according to which minorities are obligated to be loyal to the State in which they live (Paris Charter and Copenhagen document).

By its outright support for separatists in Kosovo and Metohija and acting in coordination with them on the international scene, Albania attempts to provoke unrest that would result in the secession of the province of Kosovo and Metohija from Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the ultimate goal of which is the creation of "Greater Albania". Albania thus interferes in the most flagrant way in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and encourages activities directed against its territorial integrity.

To this end, Albania has continuously supplied Albanian terrorists from Kosovo and Metohija with arms, of which the Yugoslav border authorities possess abundant evidence. By its constant attempts to destabilize the situation in Kosovo and Metohija and by its support for separatism, as well as by its confrontation with all its neighbours with which it has a common border and where it has provoked numerous incidents, Albania seriously threatens peace and stability in the Balkan region.

Albania and the separatist leaders of Kosovo and Metohija are engaged in joint actions vis-à-vis foreign factors, calling for the internationalization of the question of Kosovo and Metohija in order for this province to secede from the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by force. This is evinced by many statements of President Berisha and Foreign Minister Sereqi, as well as other Albanian politicians before international forums and in their meetings with foreign officials.

Albania, posing as a tutor of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija and encouraging it to separatism, does not recognize minority rights in its own territory. Because of such an attitude, Albania has come into conflict with all its neighbours: Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Serbs, Montenegrins and Goranci in Albania, whose existence there is denied, have been denied the right to use officially their mother tongues, to have their schools, press, radio and television programmes. Their churches, historical monuments and cemeteries were destroyed during the communist rule of Hoxha and the present Albanian authorities refuse to reconstruct them.

Albania submitted a draft resolution on human rights in Kosovo to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that is replete with distorted and false data. The Commission allowed itself to be deceived and adopted resolution 49/204 on the basis of such "data".

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia receives with appreciation the statements and positions of the representatives of Governments of the European and other countries to the effect that they do not approve of Albanian separatism in Kosovo and Metohija and that they consider it to be an integral part of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, it is concerned with the fact that, notwithstanding their principled positions, some countries receive the leaders of the separatist movement at a very high level even though they openly call for the secession of Kosovo and Metohija and its annexation to Albania. This encourages the "Greater Albania" aspirations, to the detriment of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as instability and tension in the region, which is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act.

By its entire attitude towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania shows that it does not respect either the Charter of the United Nations or OSCE principles, regardless of its commitments stemming from its membership in them.

In view of this behaviour of Albania, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a Member and founding Member of the United Nations and OSCE, calls upon these forums to take a clear stand on Albania's policy towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and request it to withdraw its decision on the recognition of the non-existent "Republic of Kosovo". The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also calls upon United Nations and OSCE member States to refrain from all acts in their relations with Albania that encourage "Greater Albania" aspirations and Albanian separatism in Kosovo and Metohija and which threaten the territorial integrity of another member State, i.e. the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.